setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports. A provision of Rs.14.5 crore has been made in the B.E. 2002-03 for providing assistance under the scheme.

(xi) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme' (TCIDS) has been launched. A provision of Rs.15 crores has been made in the B.E. 2002-03 for providing assistance under the scheme.

(xii) With a view to ensure sustainable development of handicrafts sector in the country, a new scheme named 'Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana' has recently been launched. The scheme seeks to develop selected artisan clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation.

Investment Requirements of NTPC

*129 SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has directed National Thermal Power Corporation and other corporations to firm up plans to tap capital market to meet their investment requirements in the coming years;

(b) if so, whether this is in view of massive capacity addition programme being planned by Power Ministry;

(c) if so, to what extent these corporations have agreed to the directive of the Ministry; and

(d) to what extent they have been successful in meeting the investment requirements for developing power?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) to (d) Ministry of Power has asked the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) to augment their share capital base by tapping the domestic capital market by way of an Initial Public Offering (IPO) in order to meet their investment requirements for capacity addition/expansion and other connected programmes. These Corporations have initiated preparatory action for approaching the capital market.